GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4604
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008
BPL FAMILIES
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has already fixed the number of BPL families for States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and reasons/rational for the same;

(c) whether State Governments have shown difficulties in adopting the list of BPL families;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has received requests from some State Governments regarding inclusion of more families in the list;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) & (b): The number and proportion of Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons at the State and national level is estimated by the Planning Commission after every 5 years approximately from the large sample survey of Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States and UTs to conduct the BPL Census generally in the beginning of the Five Year Plan in order to identify the BPL households living in the rural areas as estimated by the Planning Commission and who could be assisted under its various programmes. The guidelines issued for BPL Census 2002 envisaged that the States to identify the number of BPL households in the rural areas which may be equal to the poverty estimates of 1999- 2000 or the Adjusted Share worked out by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher with another 10% flexibility to account for the transient poor. The State-wise details of total number of BPL households to be identified are given in the Annexure.

(c) to (f): Some of the States like Orissa, Bihar, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have requested to allow inclusion of more number of families in the BPL list. The guidelines issued for conducting the BPL Census 2002 provides the option to the States to identify the number of BPL families which may be equal to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share worked out by the Planning Commission. In addition, another 10% was allowed to account for the transient poor. Since the States already enjoy enough flexibility in determining the number of BPL families in the rural areas, therefore, their request was not agreed to.